

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

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| Committee: | River Hamble Harbour Board |
| Date: | 13 January 2023 |
| Title: | Environmental Update |
| Report From: | Director of Universal Services |

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to summarise activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary between September and November 2022.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board notes and supports this report.

Contextual information

Oil Spill Preparedness and Response

3. The required 3-yearly Tier 2 oil spill exercise was held by RHHA on 12th October supported by its contractor, Adler & Allan. Representatives from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and the Environment Agency were invited to attend, and both contributed advice and challenges to the exercise team.

The objective of the exercise was to test the emergency response capability and Oil Spill Contingency Plan in place for a level Tier 2 response (i.e. requiring the use of resources over that available in the harbour) to a hydrocarbon spill from a pipeline failure.

The Oil Spill Management Team (OMT) was required to address issues involving the containment and removal of the oil, the safety of all people operating within RHHA jurisdiction and the environmentally sensitive areas adjacent to the incident. An additional focus, requested by RHHA, was placed

on the waste recovery and storage aspects of a spill as this aspect can prove particularly challenging.

A post-exercise report is pending from Alder & Allan, and RHHA will include information gained from the day in its update of the RHHA Oil Spill Contingency Plan, which is due its 5 yearly review and consultation in 2023.

4. Members of staff from RHHA received 'Incident Loggist' role training in November. This was kindly provided by the HCC Emergency Planning & Resilience Team.

Solent European Marine Sites Management (SEMS) Responsibilities

5. The Environment & Development Manager (EDM) represented RHHA at the Solent European Marine Sites Management Group (SEMS MG) meeting in September, and the associated Natural Environment Group (NEG) in November. The annual process ensures that relevant authorities such as RHHA are fulfilling duties with regards to monitoring and managing the impacts that activities (as opposed to plans or developments) may be having on the protected SEMS. The annual monitoring survey results are used to produce the Annual Management Report (AMR), and then actions to be taken forward are agreed, with many of these being passed to NEG. The SEMS MG is currently chaired by the RHHA Harbour Master.

The NEG meeting focussed on the disturbance of habitats and species, and on water quality. Updates on management measures relevant to RHHA included microplastic pollution, current trials and techniques for saltmarsh restoration using dredge arisings, and paddle sport disturbance in bird sensitive areas. Minutes and presentations at http://www.solentems.org.uk/sems/Annual_Meeting/ and http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/NEG_Meetings

Maintenance Works

6. Approvals have been granted for maintenance dredging this winter at Hamble Point Marina, Mercury Marina, Prince Phillip Yacht Haven/Royal Southern Yacht Club, and in the hoist dock at Universal Marina.
7. Approval has been granted for slipway repairs at Fairport House. Consideration of the like-for-like replacement of the fuel berth pontoons at Port Hamble Marina is in progress.

Hamble Estuary Partnership

8. A meeting of the Hamble Estuary Partnership was held on 13 September 2022. Over 20 member organisations gave updates on their work relevant to the estuary. Presentations were also given by:
 - i. Blue Marine Foundation on the Solent Oyster Restoration Project which included a stunning video of their work on the Solent to create native oyster reefs. [Solent Oyster Restoration Film](#)

- ii. Coastal Partners to provide an update on the Hook Lake Coastal Management Study including the shortlist of options being taken forward for consideration and further investigation

Members are encouraged to view the minutes, updates and presentations at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/riverhamble/hambleestuarypartnership>.

Intertidal Eco-Engineering

9. The EDM represented RHHA at a workshop 'Ecological Enhancement on Marine Infrastructure'. Interreg funded projects (The Marineff Project, SARCC Project, and 3DPARE Project) showcased their work in the intertidal zone, one of which included the artificial rockpools hosted by RHHA on its sea wall. The ecological design of the RHHA new sea wall was also featured in a short presentation by Bournemouth University highlighting independent research into various intertidal interventions on the south coast of England.

'People of the Solent' Exhibition

10. RHHA staff are featured in an online public exhibition of photos and interviews as part of The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's project Secrets of the Solent, see [Online Exhibition](#).

Climate Change Impact Assessment

1. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
2. **Climate Change Adaptation.** A full assessment of climate change vulnerability was not completed as no decision is required in respect of this report.
3. **Carbon Mitigation.** A full assessment of carbon mitigation vulnerability was not completed as no decision is required in respect of this report.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

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| Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity: | yes |
| People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives: | yes |
| People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment: | yes |
| People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities: | yes |

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

4. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

5. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An EIA is not required as no negative impacts are anticipated.